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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Roger Dale Hiatt


TITLE : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
EXTRACTING A SAMPLE FROM A STRIP OF
MATERIAL

SERIAL NO. : 09/944,725

FILING DATE : August 31, 2001

CONFIRMATION NO. : 1704

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : 24221-88PCT (OLD)
24221-88-2 (NEW)



Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 36 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

2. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

4. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):

- () Copy of each English language version of a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report.
- () Attached abstract for Non-English Language Documents.

5. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) this Statement is being filed:

- () within 3 months of the filing date of a national application; or
- () within 3 months of the date of the entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491 in an international application; or
- (X) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

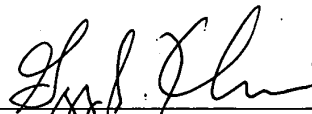
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2051, identifying our Docket No. 24221-88-2.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: _____

1/7/02

By: _____


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